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attractions doubtless were to blame for the frequently slim attendance at the meetings.

The close of the session was marked by the departure of a large proportion of the members for Moscow, the starting point of the three excursions which journeyed by different routes toward the Caucasus and the Crimea. Upward of four hundred people participated in these excursions which promised so many and so varied interests.

SOME UNWRITTEN HISTORY OF THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION.

All American biologists are familiar with the Zoological Station at Naples, either through having enjoyed its unrivalled facilities or from accounts of it which have been published again and again in the journals, both scientific and popular, of the two worlds. It is, beyond question, the greatest establishment for research in the world. But while it occupies this position to-day, and while its history since it first threw its doors open to the investigator is a part of the history of biology, the station has an unwritten history which is extremely interesting, especially since it shows, in strongest light, the indefatigable industry and resourcefulness of its founder and director, Dr. Anton Dohrn, in overcoming obstacles of every sort, many of which would have discouraged a man of less persistence. On the evening of August 10, 1897, Dr. Dohrn told the students at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl, some of the difficulties which he encountered before the station was ready for students. His talk is summarized in the following account, his own words being used in some cases.

After apologies for possible linguistic mistakes due to the use of a foreign tongue and for the prominence of himself in what he had to say, Dr. Dohrn continued by asking his audience to imagine a young privat-docent of the University of Jena, with rather more money than he well knew how to spend; with more time than he knew how to use, but with a

strong desire to do something of lasting benefit for science, and you have an idea of one of the factors in the foundation of the Naples Station. This young man had already opened a small laboratory in a modest way at Messina, but it was far from meeting his ideals. Location, equipment, support, were not the best imaginable.

On his return journey to Germany several points were visited and critically examined as to availability for a large station, and Naples seemed in every respect to promise best, but the great problems were how to get the proper location, how to obtain the necessary influence and support. For a young doctor with a reputation to make and with only the money granted by an indulgent father, both obstacles were rather serious.

One day in the late sixties, while returning from Berlin to Jena, an idea came which promised, at least in part, to remove some of the difficulties; it was to combine with a station for research, an aquarium for the entertainment of the people. Both Hamburg and Berlin had aquaria which were most successful, why should not Naples be equally favorable? So back to Naples he went at once.

At this time Naples was making great preparations for a Maritime Exposition, and it was thought that the aquarium project would work in well with this, and that, the exposition over, the building could continue and develop its scientific side. The director of the exposition was interviewed; he favored the plan, and arrangements were at once made by which the aquarium was to be inaugurated as a part of the exposition, the young privat-docent in his eagerness and enthusiasm, agreeing to meet all bills, while the director was to assume charge of the plans and the ordering of the material and equipment. Soon Dr. Dohrn saw his mistake. The director planned as he liked, ordered as he liked and soon bills came in for things totally different from anything which Dohrn himself would have ordered. So there was a break in the arrangements, and the privat-docent was back exactly where he was before—location and support still to be obtained.

He drew up a few plans, designed an elevation of the building he desired, and with these he aroused the interest of Professor Panceri of the University of Naples, who advised a consultation with the authorities of the city, who had then in progress plans for a park or garden on the shores of the beautiful bay. They, too, were attracted by the project and designs, and since they were to have the aquarium free of expense to the city, the very location desired was granted, the grant, however, being coupled with several conditions. Some of these restrictions were almost laughable. Thus no one was ever to sleep in the building, and when it was pointed out that the proprietor of the restaurant in the garden spent the night in his building, the reply was made that this was an exception. Again, it was stipulated that there should be no kitchen connected with the station, the reasons for this proviso being that if there were a kitchen it would be so easy to convert the structure into a hotel, and it would never do to have a hotel in the gardens. The other restrictions were far more serious, and Dr. Dohrn felt that he could not subscribe to the agreement in the shape it was presented to him by the Naples council. At this juncture he applied to the Italian Government, which then had its seat at Florence, and in a few days received the characteristic advice, "subscribe to everything, and then do as you please," advice which later was to make trouble for him.

Then came the Franco-Prussian war and the station plans were set aside for a time, for Dr. Dohrn was ordered to his regiment, and he went to France to take part in that struggle. When the war was over he was soon back in Naples. An architect was engaged and the station and its aquarial adjunct seemed on the straight road to accomplishment. But this bright prospect was soon darkened. The architect, like others of his class, had his own ideas of what a zoological station should be like, although up to the moment of his engagement he had never seen such an establishment, nor had he ever dreamed of one. At last he returned with his plans, Dr. Dohrn glanced at them, saw that they were totally unfitted for a zoological station and pushed them aside on the table, whist-

ling, as he did so, the closing phrases of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a reminiscence of a concert of the evening before. The architect rushed from the room in rage, and shortly his representative called upon Dr. Dohrn to make arrangements for a duel. The matter was finally settled, the architect received a thousand francs for his unusable sketches and another was installed in his place.

At last actual building was commenced and slowly the walls went up. Dr. Dohrn's father was dead and the patrimony was all invested in the new building. Three times the projector was at a loss as to from where the money for the week's payment was to come, and at as many times were friends found who aided in the undertaking. At last all resources were exhausted, friends had given all they could, Dr. Dohrn's private fortune had gone into brick and iron and marble. The thought came, this station is to be educational in its ends, cannot the German Ministry of Instruction be induced to aid by giving the 30,000 marks necessary to finish the building.

So there followed another trip to Berlin. Dr. Dohrn called on the Minister, told his story and asked if the Government could make such a grant and received for an answer, "no." As Dr. Dohrn tells it, the Minister made no attempt after this refusal to close the interview, but seemed to wait as if the answer were not final, but as if he were still open to conviction upon proper argument, and so the Doctor told a story to the effect that after the battle of Sedan he obtained a leave of absence to attend the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. When in England a friend commented upon the Franco-German war and the successes of the Germans, to the effect that this was a beginning of the end of the German pre-eminence in intellectual matters; that now Germany would develop into a military power and in all other respects would fall behind. "For years" said he, "we have been translating books from the German, in the next ten years you will be translating English books into German." The moral of the story was appreciated and the Minister promised that if Dr. Dohrn could obtain the endorsement of the

Berlin Academy of Sciences the desired grant would be forthcoming.

So Dr. Dohrn immediately interested the sympathies of three of the most prominent members of the Academy, Helmholtz, DuBois Reymond and Virchow. They promised their aid and assured him that the desired endorsement would be forthcoming, and, rejoiced by the good prospects, back he went to Naples, only to find new troubles which he had never suspected.

In the agreement with the municipality it was stipulated that the station building should not exceed a certain height, but the architect whose discharge has already been mentioned, had gone to the officials and had shown them that the walls were nearly a metre higher than was permitted, a fact which was really the result of this architect's own act. He was taking his revenge.

There was trouble immediately. The papers were filled with denunciations of the young German who had thus dared to violate the stipulations of the city, and many there were in the council who demanded that the whole building should come down. Certainly the prospect looked blue enough, but there was more to follow. On that very Christmas eve word was received from Berlin that the Academy had refused to endorse his petition, and that the ministry consequently refused to grant the necessary money. The grounds for non-endorsement were that the aquarium gave the enterprise a mercenary rather than a scientific aspect, and, again, that Dr. Dohrn had as yet done no scientific work that gave him the standing necessary for the head of such an establishment. Dohrn immediately wrote his friends, but was in Berlin before his letters. He personally called upon every member of the Academy, and such were his representations that he received the desired endorsement at the next meeting of the Academy, and the grant of funds immediately followed.

There still remained the matter of the quarrel with the city of Naples. In this Dr. Dohrn thought that possibly diplomacy could be made to play a part, and so the German Crown Prince was interested in the matter and shortly the Govern-

ment at Berlin began to exert its influence upon the powers of Italy. Long before this, however, Dohrn was back in Naples, where, upon his return, matters were even more unpromising than upon his departure. Soon the results of diplomacy began to make themselves felt, while Dr. Dohrn used his own influence with the officers of the city. Soon he had won to his side a member of the clerical party, and in a short time every obstacle on the part of the municipality was removed.

The building was at last completed and the time came to turn the water into the huge aquarial tanks, which have since proved such an attraction in the station. Here was more trouble. In Naples when a water-proof surface is needed it is the custom to use, instead of cement, a kind of volcanic earth beaten tightly together with rammers. So the builders used this for the bottom of the tanks regardless of the fact that they were to withstand salt water instead of fresh, and this some feet, instead of a few inches, in depth. The water poured through these bottoms in streams. This part of the work had to be done over again.

At last the station was opened and students began to come. There was a demand for such a place and the station fulfilled the demands made upon it as no other institution could. Yet it lived from hand to mouth, and many were the desirable features which must be omitted from the lack of funds. The whole was started, but it was far from the ideal station which its director had in mind. It was at this juncture that the German Ambassador to the Italian Government visited the station. He was pleased with all that he saw and impressed with the needs of the enterprise. "I think" said he, "that the difficulties are not insuperable," and shortly after, as a result of his representations to the German Government, backed as they were by the endorsement of Virchow, DuBois Raymond and Helmholtz, the Reichstag granted an annual subsidy of \$40,000 to the Naples Zoological Station.